

In The Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A medical article comprising an implantable substrate having a coating, the coating comprising a first biologically erodable polymer having a glass transition temperature below about -50°C and a biologically erodable polymeric additive mixed with the first polymer,

wherein:

the polymeric additive has a degree of crystallinity greater than that of the first polymer and has a glass transition temperature of about -50°C or greater; the first polymer is selected from poly(esters), poly(caprolactone), poly(4-hydroxybutyrate), poly(3-hydroxyvalerate), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate), and mixtures thereof; and the polymeric additive is selected from poly(L-lactide), poly(D,L-lactide), poly(L-lactide-co-D,L-lactide), poly(glycolide), poly(glycolide-co-L-lactide), poly(glycolide-co-D,L-lactide), poly(caprolactone-co-L-lactide), poly(caprolactone-co-D,L-lactide), poly(trimethylene carbonate), copolymers of trimethylene carbonate, poly(orthoesters), tyrosine-derived poly(carbonates), poly(iminocarbonates), poly(ester amides), and mixtures thereof.

2. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer includes poly(esters).

3. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer is poly(caprolactone).

4. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(4-hydroxybutyrate), poly(3-hydroxyvalerate), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate), and mixtures thereof.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about -50°C and about 80°C.

7. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about -20°C and about 40°C.

8. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about 0°C and about 20°C.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the medical article is a stent.

12. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 9:1 and about 0.16:1.

13. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 6:1 and about 0.25:1.

14. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 3:1 and about 0.33:1.

15. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the coating additionally comprises a therapeutic substance.

16. (Original) The medical article of Claim 1, wherein the coating is a topcoat layer disposed over a drug reservoir layer for reducing the rate of release of a drug from the reservoir layer.

17. (Previously presented) A method for fabricating a medical article, the method including depositing a coating on at least a portion of an implantable substrate, the coating including a first biologically erodable polymer having a glass transition temperature below about -50°C and a biologically erodable polymeric additive mixed with the first polymer, wherein:

the polymeric additive has a degree of crystallinity greater than that of the first polymer and has a glass transition temperature of about -50°C or greater;

the first polymer is selected from poly(esters), poly(caprolactone), poly(4-hydroxybutyrate), poly(3-hydroxyvalerate), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate), and mixtures thereof; and

the polymeric additive is selected from poly(L-lactide), poly(D,L-lactide), poly(L-lactide-co-D,L-lactide), poly(glycolide), poly(glycolide-co-L-lactide), poly(glycolide-co-D,L-lactide), poly(caprolactone-co-L-lactide), poly(caprolactone-co-D,L-lactide), poly(trimethylene carbonate), copolymers of trimethylene carbonate, poly(orthoesters), tyrosine-derived poly(carbonates), poly(iminocarbonates), poly(ester amides), and mixtures thereof.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the first polymer includes poly(esters).

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the first polymer is poly(caprolactone).

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the first polymer is selected from a group consisting of poly(4-hydroxybutyrate), poly(3-hydroxyvalerate), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-co-3-hydroxyvalerate), and mixtures thereof.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about -50°C and about 80°C.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about -20°C and about 40°C.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the additive is a polymer having the glass transition temperature between about 0°C and about 20°C.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the medical article is a stent.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 9:1 and about 0.16:1.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 6:1 and about 0.25:1.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein the mass ratio between the first polymer and the polymeric additive is between about 3:1 and about 0.33:1.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein the coating additionally comprises a therapeutic substance.